Beginner's Screenwriting Class – Syllabus

This 8-week beginner's screenwriting course introduces students to the foundations of writing for film and television. Through lectures, exercises and peer workshops, students will develop a short film script (10-12 pages) while learning industry-standard storytelling and formatting techniques.

Weekly Breakdown

- Week 1 – Introduction to Screenwriting: Format basics, visual storytelling exercise
- Week 2 – Story Fundamentals: Loglines, themes and premise
- Week 3 – Structure & Hero's Journey: 3-Act structure, beat sheets
- Week 4 – Character & Dialogue: Creating characters, subtext in dialogue
- Week 5 – Writing Strong Scenes: Conflict, escalation, scene purpose
- Week 6 – Formatting & Style: Sluglines, action lines, pacing
- Week 7 – Rewriting & Feedback: Peer workshop, revision strategies
- Week 8 – Final Project & Table Read: Script reading, next steps as a writer

Final Project

By the end of the course, students will complete a polished 10-12 page short film script.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand screenplay structure and format
- Craft strong characters and dialogue
- Develop loglines and beat sheets
- Write compelling scenes with conflict
- Revise scripts based on constructive feedback
- Complete a short screenplay suitable for submission or production